

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00539 120501Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SNM-05
SP-02 INR-10 CIAE-00 PA-01 /075 W
-----077908 121321Z /47 L

R 110430Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9255
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC
DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0539

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, LA
SUBJECT: UNFDAC PROGRAM IN LAOS

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 508; (B) GENEVA 7998

1. THE UNDP RESREP IN VIENTIANE AND UNFDAC REPRESENTATIVE ARNAUD HAVE SEPARATELY INFORMED US THAT THE LAO HAVE ASKED THAT THE UNFDAC OFFICE AND PROGRAM IN LAOS BE CLOSED DOWN BY JULY 1978.

2. ARNAUD INDICATED THAT THE LAO ACTION RESULTED FROM UNFDAC/GENEVA'S "RIGIDITY" IN INSISTING THAT THE TERMS OF THE NOVEMBER 1977 UNFDAC-LPDR AGREEMENT BE ADHERED TO. HE SAID THAT THE LAO HAD SAID THAT UNFDAC'S INSISTENCE ON A HIGHLAND SITE FOR THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AMOUNTED TO INTERFERENCE IN LAO INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SINCE SUCH INSISTENCE MEANT THAT UNFDAC WAS OPPOSING THE
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LPDR POLICY OF RESETTLING ALL HIGHLAND TRIBESPEOPLE IN LOWLAND AREAS. WHEN ASKED WHY THE LAO HAD THEN SIGNED THE NOVEMBER AGREEMENT CALLING FOR A HIGHLAND CROP SUBSTITUTION SITE, ARNAUD SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED. WHEN ASKED WHY THE LAO HAD NOT THEN ASKED SIMPLY TO RENEGOTIATE THE NOVEMBER AGREEMENT IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, ARNAUD INDICATED

IT WAS BECAUSE THE LAO WERE OFFENDED BY UNFDAC'S
INSISTENCE ON ACTIVITY IN INSECURE HIGHLAND AREAS.

3. THE UNDP RESREP INDICATED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT
ARNAUD HIMSELF WAS THE REAL PROBLEM RATHER THAN THE
HIGHLAND CROP SUBSTITUTION SITE.

4. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH GENEVA (REF B) THAT THE
POSSIBILITY OF ATTACHING A NARCOTICS ADVISOR TO THE
UNDP RESREP MIGHT BE WORTH PURSUING. THERE COULD BE
PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, IN GETTING THE LPDR TO AGREE TO
LETTING SUCH A PERSON BE EFFECTIVE. THE EMBASSY IS
CONCERNED THAT A FORMAL BUT INEFFECTUAL U.N. NARCOTICS
PRESENCE MIGHT IMPLY U.N. ACQUIESCENCE IN SUCH HIGHLY
QUESTIONABLE LPDR PRACTICES AS MASSIVE RESETTLEMENT
OF HIGHLAND TRIBESPEOPLE AND COMPLICITY IN THE
INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 may 1978
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SNAR, LA
To: STATE
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